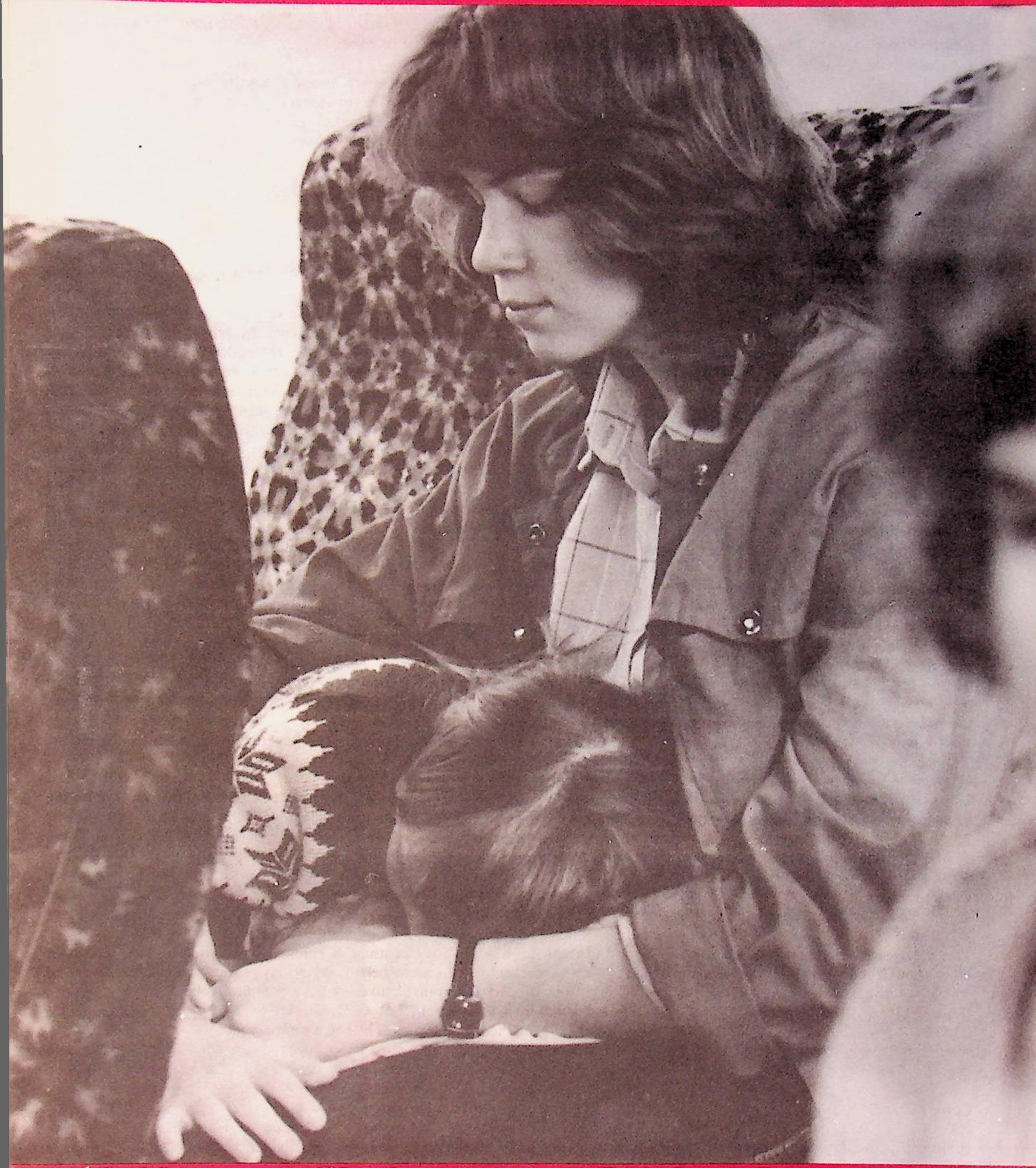


Point Three



The Toc H magazine
December 1982 10p



'A Happy Christmas to All Our Readers'

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House — the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

Cover Picture

It's been a long day . . . A Toc H volunteer with her young friend on the Southern Region's project for mentally handicapped children.

Photo: Rex Waygood

Personal View

Why Stop at Christmas?

High noon behind the tamarisks — the sun is hot above us —

As at Home the Christmas Day is breaking wan,

They will drink our healths at dinner — those who tell us how they love us,

And forget us till another year be gone!

(Christmas in India)

I believe that, for Toc H at least, Kipling was wrong about the forgetting!

Christmas is the time when families are drawn together, forgotten are differences and problems and even geographical separation is overcome by the moving spirit of goodwill. So it must be in Toc H, as we gather round the flame of hope kindled by the birth of our Lord.

In material terms, we in world wide Toc H are a very small family but as Dion Roder says in the Toc H Southern Africa Annual Report:

'Those of us in, and on the outside of the Movement who regard Toc H as dying, must find it incredibly hard to explain away the projects springing up in this country as a result of major contributions by Toc H members.'

This is true in many other parts of the world and it is worth while reminding ourselves of the traditional role of Toc H members in being alert to new areas where love and compassion are needed. We are basically a very free organisation where it is possible always to cast bread on new waters, leaving the establishing of continuing service to those organisations who can do it so much better than ourselves.

There is of course a danger in this role if, by handing some job over, it becomes impersonal and if those who provide material help prove incapable of loving the needy. I remember very well going to a home where the residents had been given a fabulous outing by a well known local club but who had treated the beneficiaries as so many sheep, not talking in any real way to them at all: the result was heartbreaking and harmful. Toc H members do need to develop very sensitive antennae and therefore must be careful not to fill all available time with work: only in that way can we ensure that this essential sensitivity is not lost and that the search for new needs and for gaps in service goes on. I am quite sure for instance that there are many opportunities for those in need of friendship to be encouraged to help those in need of care; we must above all be 'enablers'.

All these thoughts sprang from the words of one member in a distant and somewhat ostracised country with fewer than a thousand members. From Canada a lone member tells us that he is meeting a friend this month during the World Chain of Light to plan what can be done there in the name of Toc H. Despite being thousands of miles away from the nearest Branch, never seeing staff and living in a self assertive and often anti-British country, the commitment is seen to be strong and hopeful. What does that say to us with all the things we have to comfort us — our Royal Charter, Council, Committees and staff?

Then, think for a while this Christmas of Poperinge, where, in the beginning,
*'from a table high and white
friendship carried the hopeful light.'*

Known as the 'British House' until recently, now tradition is being turned upside down because our Belgian friends want to use the house and want also to be members of that strange show called Toc H. This has happened because Charles and Ivy Swan have been sensitive to the needs of the town and have charged sensibly in a 'what have we got to lose' way. Now rest assured that Poperinge members will see things very differently from the way we see them, and glory be for that because we badly need more diversity. This is a real rebirth — very different from 1915, but in keeping with the fellowship of nations, a prerequisite of a peaceful world.

And think for a while this Christmas of Pannikampatti which Tim and Heather Southall have recently visited on our behalf. Water has proved hard to find there and in the meantime no doctor is available to work from the hutt clinics. Hope is hard to gather up from such a situation, but G H Herbert of Tiruchy is throwing all his energies into solving these problems and he needs our prayers.

Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Chile, too, provide us with examples of fortitude and faithfulness in their membership, and we can rest assured that they will be thinking at this time of English friends and firesides despite, in many areas, their hot summer weather over Christmas.

Then, we have recently re-opened a correspondence with Toc H in Zimbabwe where good things are happening in our name. Think of our friends there: they are thinking of us.

Christmas is a time for love. Spurred on by the strength of our family near and far, may we all spread that love around us through 1983.

Keith Rea

A WEEK IN WOOD AND CLAY

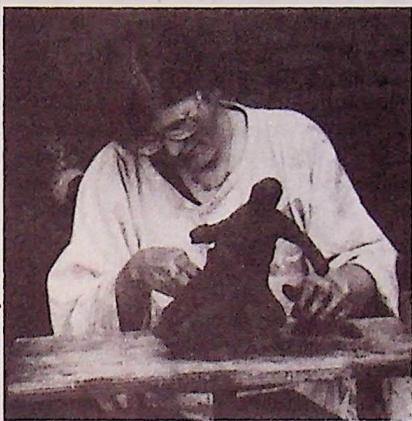
Last August, a group of brave pioneers gathered at Cuddesdon House for a new sort of Toc H Leisure Week, devoted to Pottery and Woodwork. Despite difficult weather, the week was a huge success, and will be repeated in 1983, during the first week in August. The cost will be £63, and beginners and experts are equally welcome.

Photo: Clare Currant



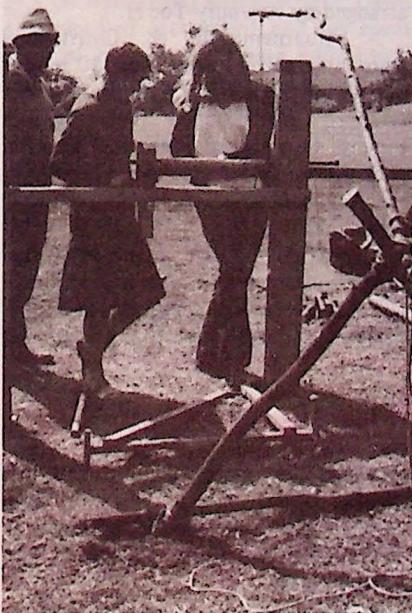
Building the kiln

Photo: Mary Heslam



Clay modelling

Photo: Clare Currant



Wood turning on a traditional pole lathe,
built during the week

Photo: Mary Heslam

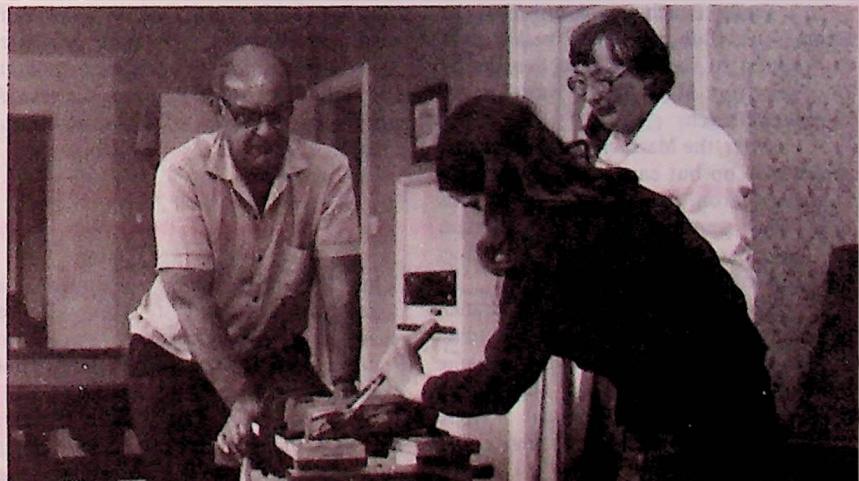


The Potters wheel in use

Photo: Clare Currant



Opening the kiln – the moment of truth



A lesson in wood carving

Photo: Clare Currant

Round and about

with Scott Shaw

Terribly sorry I'm a Christian

Leaving aside the few aggressive, insensitive (and frequently ignorant) Bible thumpers, I know of no other faith whose members are so hesitant, embarrassed or apologetic about their beliefs.

Perhaps it's because they do not see the Bible as a sound guide to everyday living, like the holy books of other religions.

In a book called '*How the Critics can Help*', subtitled '*A Guide to the Practical Use of the Gospels*' its Toc H author is concerned that the Bible should be rescued from the indifference and respect normally reserved for ancient monuments.

He warns against separating Jesus of Nazareth from the Christ of the Church, and paring down the Gospel narratives to the point where they become inoffensive enough to be believable to modern men!

The author, the Revd Eric Franklin, teacher at a theological college, is a Thanet District member and Padre of Margate Women's Branch. His late father was a member of Margate Men's Branch and his uncle (who is 85) is still an active member.

Knowing how we like a good argument, how about picking on those points above and letting us know what you think? If you'd like to read the book first, it's published at £4.95 by SCM Press.

What West Central did for Emily

You'd think they'd throw a party for Emily's 103rd birthday, but they didn't, so Toc H did!

Emily Bench is a member of the Gospel Oak Club, started 17 years ago at the request of Camden Social Services by the men from Mark 7 and West Central Women's Branch.

After the Mark closed, the women didn't give up but carried on, assisted by volunteers from various sources. By this time, they were also acting as escorts on the ambulances which took members between their homes and the club.

For Emily's birthday, the Branch laid on plenty of refreshments, including a birthday cake. Entertainment came from an Irish pipe band and young dancers. Our correspondent Anne Fletcher says '... we wished there could have been a hidden camera to record everyone's delight - Emily's face was wreathed in smiles'.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Keep their eyes open

They're a sharp lot at Ashby! Noticing that a small warehouse was available, they secured its use for a week and selling items donated by the public, made a profit of £450, 10% going to the Family Purse, reports our correspondent John Quimby.

During the summer, one of the men spent some time in the local cottage hospital. He noticed it needed two things to make life more comfortable - an easy chair, and an electric fan for an elderly man who was seriously ill.

The hospital now has both, thanks to a good response to Ashby's appeal to other organisations in the town. Once again Ashby has proved that when we have a worthwhile aim and involve others, success is virtually assured.

Sad Sequel

Memories on another successful Alison House painting week were marred by news of the deaths of two regulars. Despite severe disability which made travelling difficult, Doris Laws was a regular attender up to two or three years ago. Our correspondent Laura Lee writes 'I am sure those who knew Doris and recognised her kindly forthrightness will join me in sending love and sympathy to her devoted sister Olive, who I know will find solace in the lovely garden which they made together, and the knowledge that Doris really enjoyed her 75th birthday party without pain, just before she died'.

Laura adds: 'We also missed the cheery help of Mollie Muscott, the "right hand man" to our tutor Harry Muscott. We were saddened to know that she died so suddenly but glad she was relieved from pain. It was wonderful to have Harry with us and we hoped we helped in what must have been sadness yet mixed with happy memories of Mollie at Alison House'.

Women dominant

Colne/Orwell District enjoyed a stimulating weekend at Alison House where the guest speaker was Rose Radford, former Chairman of the Central Executive, who spoke on 'Bridging Gaps'. Our correspondent Dot Turner reports: 'One male member brought his wife along and joined the party. We thought the coach driver would be company for him but it turned out to be a woman!'

They are not alone . . .
are you?

Ruislip are sociable as well as busy! They have arranged meetings and an outing with other Branches in the District, and our correspondent Arthur Johnson reports 'We are always able to call on friends for help'.

Ruislip's jobs include bi-monthly visits to the Princess Marina Home and planning a summer project at Southall. Back at Ruislip itself, members and their wives run the local blind club; Rotary help with transport and entertainment comes from various church groups and friends.

I wonder how many of us have spent a day (or even an evening) with another Branch recently? And how many friends can we call on to help with a job that's too big for us?

Youngsters help Newbury

Newbury men took six young people over to the Old House in July and the sights of Poperinge and Ypres made a strong impression on them. So did Toc H, apparently, because recently four of them responded to an appeal from Newbury via staff member Philip Douch, and helped raise funds for a local day centre by selling raffle tickets.

B & C : Busy & Caring Bingo & Carols

Bournemouth & Christchurch Joint Branch have been busy lately - and they won't be easing off during December! The Branch and its retired men's club enjoyed an outing which included a trip on a horse drawn narrow boat, and tea arranged by Newbury Toc H.

Bournemouth & Christchurch were themselves hosts for 50 elderly people on an outing from Basingstoke, arranged by Lodden Vale District. Finally, they joined four other Branches and the retired men's club in running the Wessex District Autumn Fayre, which raised £220.

After all that, I see from their programme they still have enough breath left to go carol singing this month at three venues, one of which is a bingo hall!

And briefly . . .

Thurrock are doing well in their fund raising efforts for a new 22 seater ambulance for the disabled; the last we heard, they had raised £7,000 of their £20,000 target . . .

. . . the total raised by the St Trinian's Girls (see September issue) was £264 . . .

Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during September/October.

19 – Swans Poperinge (J) Grp
 6 – Newbottle (J) Grp
 4 – Newcastle West (J) Grp
 2 – Bingham (M), Cromwell District,
 Hunstanton (W)
 1 – Barkingside (M), Brighton (W),
 Clacton-on-Sea (W), Cleveland
 District, Eastbourne (J), Hemel
 Hempstead (W), Hitchin (W),
 Marsh Farm (Luton) (J) Grp,
 Melton and Charnwood District,
 Nailsea (M), Northants Action
 (J) Grp, Redcar (J) Grp,
 Seaford (J), Skelmorlie & Wemyss
 Bay (J), Surrey District,
 Sutton (Birmingham) (J),
 Tyneside and Wearside District,
 Whitstable (W).

A warm welcome to 53 new members.

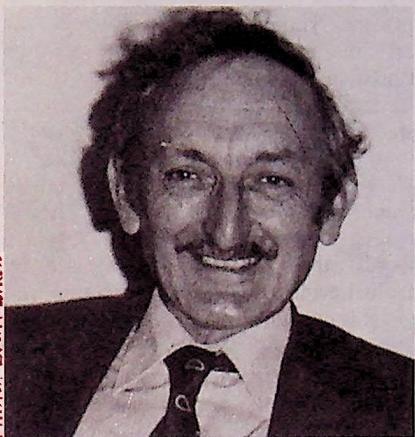


Photo: Scott Shaw

We welcome David Owen who joined us on 1 October as HQ Administrator. David is a qualified accountant and has spent most of his career to date with Lucas Industries primarily concerned with the overseas affairs of that group. He and his wife Valerie are committed Christians and he is Secretary of their local Baptist Church. They also sing in an Aylesbury choir and are very involved in local village activities. Their family consists of a married daughter, Penny, who recently gave birth to their first grandson and three sons, Tim, Jeremy and Andrew.

Please Note

Money for Flashing Lights?

A charitable trust has indicated that it could be willing to make funds available for the development of emergency call systems for the elderly and housebound. In order to discuss the possibility further it is important that we have an up to date picture of Toc H involvement in such schemes. We would like to hear as soon as possible from all Branches which are running, or helping to run, schemes at present. Please include a technical description of the particular system you use, with a note of what seems from experience to be its pros and cons. With the benefit of hindsight would you suggest any modification of the system?

If you are not running a scheme yourself but know of one in your area run by another organisation this information would be helpful. If you have run a scheme in the past but are no longer involved it would be helpful to have a note of the reasons. And we would be glad to hear from any Branch which would be willing to consider launching a scheme if some initial funding were made available.

Please write to Ken Prideaux-Brune at Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT as soon as possible so that we can follow up this possibility of financial support.

Colsterdale Centre

As from 1 January 1983 the charges for the Colsterdale Centre will be as follows:

	Adults	Children	Minimum Charges
Weekends	£ 5.25	£ 4.25	£ 63
Mid-weeks	£ 8.50	£ 6.25	£ 102
Full weeks	£ 13.75	£ 10.50	£ 165

but there will be a 25% reduction for bookings in January, February, March, November and December.

**Applications for reservations to:
E Roebuck, 53 Brownhill Lane,
Holmbridge, Huddersfield,
W Yorkshire HD7 1QW.
Tel: Holmfirth (048 489) 2705.**

Please note that the telephone number
of the Centre is now Ripon (0765)
89382

Apologies!

We regret that the article '*Our Gentle Sister*' in October's *Point Three* included incorrect information in the penultimate paragraph which listed some helping organisations. We understand that the entries for the first three of these should read:

1. **Cruse.** The National Organisation for the Widowed and their Children. Address: Cruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR (Tel: 01 940 4818/9047).
2. **Compassionate Friends.** A self help group for parents who have lost a child. Their present secretary is: Gill Hodder, 5 Lower Clifton Hill, Bristol BS8 (Tel 0272 292778).
3. **The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths.** The Foundation funds research into cot deaths and offers support to parents who have experienced a cot death. Their address: 5th Floor, 4 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7HD (Tel: 01 235 1751).

National Chaplain

The retirement this year of our National Chaplain, Revd John Hull, leaves a vacancy to be filled. The Central Executive Committee has prepared new terms of reference for the holder of this appointment and these will be supplied to each applicant. The Chaplain — who will be an ordained minister — will be based

at Wendover but will be expected to travel widely.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact The General Secretary, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Tel: 0296 623911).

From the Director

by Ken Prideaux-Brunne



'Where there is despair, let us bring hope.'

That is part of the pledge we renew each time we share in the alternative form of the Ceremony of Light. Hope is one of St Paul's trinity of Christian virtues and some may well be surprised to find it there. Surely, they will say, we are born either optimists or pessimists and there's not much we can do about it. Hope, unlike faith and love, is not something one can achieve. One either has it or one doesn't. I doubt if it is that cut and dried; I suspect one can nurture one's capacity to hope, just as one can nurture one's capacity to love.

The effects of hope and despair are not confined simply to ourselves. Hope enlivens and invigorates, not only its possessor but his friends and acquaintances also. Despair has an equally powerful deadening effect on all who come in contact with it. It prevents action. Everything is getting worse, and will continue to do so, so what's the point of doing anything? Despair is an inhibiting disease and, as St Francis knew, only an injection of hope can cure it. But

it must be real hope, grounded in experience, not an easy, false optimism, based on a vague yearning for things to get better.

John Callf used to talk about those who *'love Toc H despairingly'* and they are still with us here and there. The money's running out and we'll be broke in x years (insert the number of your choice); the Marks have been destroyed; Branches are closing down or struggling to survive; we can't find any leaders; young people just aren't interested. The catalogue is a long and wearying one.

It depends, I suppose, on one's angle of vision — or rather on what one chooses to see. Some of these things are true but they are not the whole truth — some of them are very partial truths indeed. If we are to get the whole picture there are other things which we ought also to see. A movement will inevitably undergo continual change. There will be a pattern of death and rebirth. To be willing only to see the death is to get a very one-sided picture.

I was glad to have the opportunity of sharing in the first birthday celebrations of John Perkins House in Nottingham. There can be no doubt about the impact this community house has had in one short year on those who live in it, on the Parish in which it operates and on the other expressions of Toc H in and around Nottingham. I was equally encouraged by an evening with five young people who are deeply committed to the creation of a new community house in Putney, in South West London. And in at least two other places the first tentative steps towards the creation of community houses are being taken. So this is one direction in which we can justifiably find hope.

We can find hope in the new group in Newcastle which has already launched a charity shop which is also a communication centre for voluntary effort within the West End area of the city. We can find hope in the ambitious plans being developed in Sussex for the

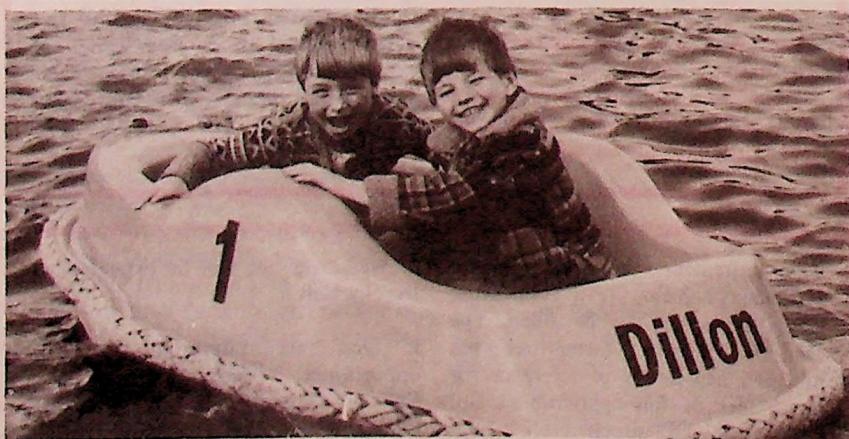
creation of a holiday centre for handicapped people. We can find hope in the unique approach to the rehabilitation of those who have been mentally ill which is being pioneered by the Toc H Friendship Circles in Cleveland. We can find hope in a recent 'debriefing' day for project volunteers. The young people reflected on what they had learned from this experience and a deep discussion showed that they had found on the projects a quality of friendship which they had never previously experienced.

I could fill the page with examples of this kind. But it is not just in the comparatively big and ambitious things that hope is to be found. In many, many Branches throughout the country there is a depth of friendship and of sacrificial caring that are real signs of the Kingdom. For those with eyes to see there is justification for hope all around us. Of course there are real problems and frustrations but they are not the only reality. To get a true picture we must allow ourselves to see the hopeful things as well.

But there are deeper grounds for hope than this kind of balance sheet can provide. Those who have grown in the art of meditation, whether in the Christian tradition, or in one of the Eastern traditions, or from a secular standpoint, are agreed in discovering a powerful sense that, as Mother Julian of Norwich put it: *'All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'*. It is a feeling that can scarcely be put into words, that cannot be buttressed by factual evidence or logical deduction, and yet it is overwhelming in its power.

For the Christian the season of Christmas, now nearly upon us once again, is a symbol of that profound confidence. It is in that confidence, not merely in the signs of gloom or of encouragement that we see around us, that we can dare to try to bring hope where there is despair.

My best wishes for a happy and hopeful Christmas.



Paddle boats are marvellous — they get the kids away from the volunteers for awhile . . . which isn't a bad idea, considering how some of the grown ups behave! Two scenes on a Colsterdale holiday for one parent families in the North Eastern Region.



Photos: David Mayhew

THE DOMINATING CLAIM

by Tom Gulliver



Writing about the reasons for the success of Toc H in its early days, Peter Monie wrote, '... we are entirely in the spirit of learners, and with no axes of theory to grind, trying out two things which I rather think were known of old time. One is that love ventures while skill is marshalling facts and figures and arguing from them: and love gets through, or else it fails, and presently is ready to try again. The other is that "Love knocks and enters: while intelligence stands without".' He agreed that was a little exaggerated, but he was making the point that the social problems which disturbed people were in reality spiritual matters, and in such matters, he said 'love has a power of entry which no other power of man has'. 'That is why', concluded Peter Monie, 'I think the method of Toc H is right'.

The method is in the message. Love is expressed through a relationship in which there is neither domination nor aloofness, but a mutual trust and respect. This quality of friendship is not reached without self giving as well as self realisation. Those who have found it know how life enhancing it is. This is the reality of our Toc H experience at its best. This is what we have to offer to those who are deprived of such a friendship. We need to keep this fact in the forefront of our minds as we consider as objectively as we can, the place of Toc H in today's society.

If Toc H is no longer fulfilling its early promise, it is not because it is no longer relevant, or because we lack the will. It is, I believe, because we are confused by the complexity of today's society, and are disheartened by our falling numbers.

The crisis is one of self confidence. That will not be resolved by organisational changes or administrative streamlining. Both may be necessary but they are secondary factors. When Mother Teresa went into Beirut in the recent tragedy an eyewitness said, 'What stunned everyone was her energy and efficiency. She saw the problem, fell to her knees, and prayed for a few seconds, and then she was rattling off a list of supplies she needed - nappies, plastic pants, chamber pots. We didn't expect a saint to be efficient.' Her way is the way of love, but it is not woolly minded sentimentalism, nor does she allow herself to be overwhelmed by the size of the problem. She assesses the situation, augments her own resources with those of others, and gets to work.

We have to follow the same pattern. If we are to promote 'an active and

THE DOMINATING CLAIM

continued

intelligent sense of brotherhood', to use Tubby's phrase, we must use our minds to understand the social reality which exists. Then we must accept that we cannot do everything, but must apply our insights and energies to the need which is at hand. Finally, we must work in co-operation with others, using their resources to supplement our own. Toc H is a numerically small Movement, scattered haphazardly in penny packets in various parts of the country. That is the objective reality about ourselves. However, if we accept that our job is to meet the need that is locally present, the scattered nature of our small groups is of no particular consequence. We simply get on with the job that is to hand. The quality of our enterprise may attract people to us, so that our small groups may grow and we shall do even more. By working with other equally concerned people, we can share insights and experience and so achieve part of our aim, which is to get Toc H into people. But neither of those things will happen until we get started. I do not think that a Movement committed to expressing the vulnerability of love will ever have a large membership. But it can have a powerful influence. History demonstrates that truth. Here is another fact to be grasped.

What are the human situations where love needs to venture? Let me try to highlight some of them, particularly where young people are concerned. Remember, behind these figures are people, many of whom are desperately unhappy. The figures are taken from Government sources, and they show certain facts which can be quantified. They do not show the socio-economic facts, or the moral/ethical attitudes, behind the findings. So we must acknowledge their limitations, and

use them with caution. They are presented here simply to demonstrate the size of the problem nationally.

In over one quarter of lone parent families with dependent children, the parent was aged under 30. Such families are the most vulnerable economically, and the parent is often isolated socially.

In Great Britain in 1980, 42% of births to women under the age of 20, were outside marriage.

Abortions performed in England and Wales on girls under the age of 16 increased from 1,000 in 1969 to 4,000 in 1980. For the age group 16-19, the increase over the same decade was from 8,000 to 32,000, and for the 20-34 age group the numbers were 30,000 to 75,000. Those three age groups accounted for 85% of all abortions in 1980. Let me repeat, in one year, abortions on young women under the age of 20, was a staggering 36,000.

In England and Wales, over 80% of divorces occur in marriages where the wife was aged under 25 at the time of marriage, and 48% of divorces in this group occurred within ten years of marriage. The table below shows the numbers for this group. In the 20 years to 1980, the incidence of divorce went up from 2.1 per thousand married people to 12.0. In 1980 for the age group of the wife at the time of marriage of under 20, the incidence was 50 per thousand married people, and for the next group of 20-24, it was 30 per thousand.

The number of suicides fell dramatically between 1963 and 1972, falling by 32% in England and Wales. However, since 1976 the figures have increased by about

3% each year. Suicides in the United Kingdom represent less than 1% of total deaths each year, but this rises to 12% for the age group 25-29. The actual number of people taking their own lives is probably much higher than the records show because of the evidence which most coroners now require before bringing in a suicide verdict.

The only official figures available for those addicted to dangerous drugs relate to addicts receiving treatment. These figures suggest that the highest incidence may be amongst the 25-34 age group.

Alcohol is the cause of serious personal and social problems. It is estimated that in the United Kingdom between 500,000 and 700,000 people have a serious drinking problem. Admissions to psychiatric hospitals for drink problems between 1965 and 1975 increased by 84% for men, and by 145% for women. The age group of men and women drinking the most was 18-24. Alcohol is considered to be a significant cause in one in ten of all road accidents. In England and Wales in 1980, 73,800 breath tests were positive, as were 63,750 subsequent blood and urine tests. Of drivers killed in road accidents in England and Wales with alcohol in the blood above the legal limit, the highest proportion was in the age group 16-29.

These figures indicate a great deal of human suffering. Not only those who make up the statistics, but their close family and friends. Not forgetting, especially not forgetting, the children who are so often the helpless victims of adult stress. To say that divorce is too easily obtainable, or that stricter criteria should be applied to abortions, is an oversimplified reaction. Such measures would improve the statistics but the human misery would remain.

The need for counselling and advice is well recognised and the growth of organisations formed for that purpose reflect this. In 1980 there were 500 voluntary helpers in young people's counselling and advisory services helping 30,000 young people. Marriage guidance and advisory services helped some 40,000 clients. Alcoholics Anonymous had 25,000 members in 1465 Branches. The Samaritans had nearly 300,000 clients with nearly 20,000 voluntary helpers. These figures indicate a growing awareness of the availability of help by people under stress. In addition, many more people are helped in hospital and

Divorces – England and Wales

Number of divorces for age groups of wife at time of marriage, by duration of marriage in years

Thousands

Age of wife at time of marriage	Duration of marriage in years								Total
	0-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30 &	Total	
Under 20	0.4	10.1	17.1	10.4	6.7	6.0	1.9	52.6	
20-24	0.4	8.8	16.9	12.1	7.9	10.2	4.1	60.5	
All other age groups	0.5	5.6	8.1	3.9	2.6	3.3	1.6	25.6	
Total	1.3	24.5	42.1	26.4	17.2	19.5	7.6	138.7	

social work departments. Yet there are still many unhappy and despairing people who, for whatever reason, do not avail themselves of these facilities. Is there not a role here for Toc H, with our informal approach, and beginning quite simply at the level of getting to know each other?

The continually rising unemployment figures indicate another area of considerable stress. Especially for those out of work for a long time. Let me remind you of some of these figures. In April 1981 50% of all those out of work had been so for over six months, and 20% for over a year. That is more than half a million people out of work for a twelve month or more. At the same date over 390,000 young people in the age group 16-19 had no job.

There are differing views on the causes of the present high level of unemployment, and there is some truth in all of them. The world wide recession is having its effect upon us as a trading nation. In addition to this, there appears to be a structural change in United Kingdom employment. A similar change took place in the 19th century when agriculture declined as a result of the high import of cheap food, especially of American wheat. The increased demand for labour from the rapidly expanding manufacturing industries absorbed much of the surplus labour. Today we see a sharp reduction in manpower in manufacturing industry without a compensating increase elsewhere.

New methods of production, including the use of microtechnology, make it highly unlikely that our basic industries will again employ the same number of people. There has in any case been a global shift of manufacturing capacity from the old industrialised countries to the developing countries. Textiles and clothing manufacture, was followed by steelmaking and shipbuilding, and these have been followed by the automotive and basic chemicals industries. The development of microtechnology has enabled manufacturing skills to be transferred to computer controlled machines of various kinds. In the United Kingdom we are not into the high technology based industries to anything like the extent needed to compensate for the lost employment. For example, 70% of robots in use here had to be imported. The impact of computers in the office has been less dramatic, but is there nonetheless. It has mainly resulted in not replacing retired staff, with a consequent

loss of job opportunities, but there have also been some redundancies.

These facts are important if we are to understand the changes taking place in society. My concern here is not to discuss ways of overcoming unemployment, but only to help us understand that it will not go away overnight. I do not want to underplay the importance of work, but I think the emphasis we give it must change. We must face the fact that we have to find an alternative to work as the dominant factor in our lives.

So many people feel themselves to be caught up in a situation over which they have no control. They are not able to exercise a choice. Especially is this true of young people whose experience of life and mental horizons are both limited. They lack the incentive to use creatively the time when they are not working. This is not the only cause of depression amongst those out of work, but it is one of the contributory factors. It can also be found contributing to a feeling of 'uselessness' amongst retired people. What provides the incentive for people to become 'creative' or 'useful' as a means of self expression and quite separate from any monetary gain? Has it to do with self confidence? Or is it related to what is expected of them? Many of us will have experienced the incredulity of some people when they discovered that our Toc H 'job' of manning a tea bar at a hospital on a Sunday, or operating a hospital library trolley was unpaid. It had simply never occurred to them that one could work in this way without payment, and, what is more, actually enjoy it.

If voluntary work of this kind is outside their experience, how can they be expected to respond to invitations to help with unpaid activities, much less to initiate them for themselves? When such people do accept an invitation of this kind it is usually a personal response to someone they already know and trust. The experience of those involved in activities like our painting and music weeks, can attest that people with no previous experience or even belief in their own ability have discovered unsuspected talents and, perhaps more importantly, the sheer joy of actually creating something in association with other people.

There is an immense reservoir of human potential waiting to be released. Toc H experience has often been the catalyst which has changed people's awareness of

themselves and their capabilities. There are many more awaiting the opportunity. Facilities already exist, many of which are not taken up and we need not enter that field. Our part is more on the personal level. Getting to know people and point them in the right direction. Not so much providing facilities, as helping them to be aware of opportunities.

In his book '*Looking at Leisure*', David Bridge suggests a leisure syllabus which looks like this.

The arousal of curiosity — curiosity is a most valuable asset in every area of life, but it is vital to the proper enjoyment of free time;

The appreciation of the natural world — modern man is in danger of being cut off from his roots. He is a living being and needs to understand his relationship with the whole of creation.

The appreciation of the arts — *'Without vision, the people perish'*.

The human spirit needs to catch a glimpse of what the painter, composer, poet, sculptor, architect and film maker are trying to share with us.

Relaxation — so many people do not know how to relax and the quality of their lives suffers as a result.

Creativity — only in leisure will many people ever have the opportunity to express their own personality.

David Bridge's syllabus was suggested for schools, but it is appropriate for all of us. Those themes he mentions have all at some time or other been a recognised part of the Toc H experience. We need to bring them more into the forefront of our thinking.

I am particularly concerned with the need to give to young people a sense of purpose. To provide them with the opportunity to do something constructive with their lives. Somehow, we have to overcome the attitude of social apathy, indifference to other people's needs and the expectation that it is someone else's responsibility to provide all that is necessary for a full life. With so many young people unemployed there is an urgent need to encourage natural creativity and the development of skills.

Another fact which we need to recognise is that British society is multi-cultural and multi-faith. This is more apparent in some areas than in others, but if we live in a place where there are opportunities for extending the boundaries of our friendship we should not neglect them.

THE DOMINATING CLAIM

continued

Many ethnic minority communities feel that their own standards and customs are under threat. Their children, born and brought up here, are often torn between the different demands made upon them inside and outside the home. Many experience a real crisis of identity. It is not for us to intrude into such sensitive areas, but we need to recognise that such things add to the suspicion of traditionally minded older people. We have to live together in harmony, respecting each other's customs, and we can only do this when we understand the reasons for the customs. The more we can grow together in friendship, the happier will be the situation for our children.

I have presented these facts to indicate some of the areas of human need that it seems to me we should be looking at. It is not our role to establish causes or to devise social machinery to handle all the difficult situations I have outlined. What is needed, I think, is to recognise the spiritual dimension in these situations. There need to be social structures, certainly, but our part is to meet the spiritual need. We need to help people to realise their own value as persons and as citizens.

If we look at Tubby's first attempt at the Four Points, we can see what he at any rate saw as the role of Toc H in society. He spoke of '*an intelligent sense of brotherhood*', of '*the fullest development of the individual - (to) assure him security and opportunity within - society*', of '*a standard of education that will enable Everyman both to think and act with judgement and unselfishness*', of '*the dominating claims of the spiritual factor in human life and to found on them a principle of reconciliation*'. All that says very clearly to me that we are concerned ourselves with strengthening spiritual values in the lives of ordinary people. Look at the values Tubby was concerned about: brotherhood, full development of the individual, education, reconciliation, spiritual values, every one of them. Above all, we are to recognise the primacy of the spiritual factor, that is that dimension which gives value and meaning to life.

This fourth was later summarised as 'The Kingdom of God'. I do not disagree with that term, but I think we sometimes interpret it too narrowly. There are many whose attitude and conduct suggest that worship and other religious practices exhaust the expression of the spiritual factor. In fact, its claims are much wider.

There is no doubt that Toc H exists for those outside its membership. Our task is to use the insights of our experience in those areas of human need I have touched upon. The organisational structure of the Movement is to enable us to be effective instruments of God's purpose in today's society. Some people will have to maintain the structure, but these need not be many. I do not want to divert the discussion away from the main issue. I would only plead here that we do not allow the organisation to absorb the people needed elsewhere. I am convinced that if we apply our minds to the main task, we shall in the process build the structure we need. We must try not to fit our task into the structure. The task is the important thing, not the organisation.

Our main activity must be in creating that quality of personal relationship which allows the expression of those spiritual values to which Tubby referred. This has to be done in those areas of human need outlined above, and especially with young people. For this we have to be open minded, open hearted, open handed, and willing to take the risk associated with this degree of openness.

Toc H has always worked through bringing together people who would not otherwise meet. This has to be applied in ways appropriate to our local situation, bearing in mind that what we are trying to do is to enable people to get to know each other so that they can share their disappointments and hopes, and begin to recognise the need of each for the other. They will thus begin to work towards mutual support and encouragement. Some groups will more readily see the value of coming together in this way. For instance, detached community workers who may experience similar problems, but lack a forum in which these can be shared. Or young couples isolated from their families, but sharing similar social or environmental problems. Other groups, who are already in conflict, will not see that they have anything in common. For example, young blacks and the police. A daunting task certainly, but those who have ventured into such arenas have managed to establish contact across what seemed insuperable barriers. One advantage we have is that we provide a neutral meeting place, and we ourselves are not pursuing a partisan line.

It is no easy task to which we have been called. We are required to be involved with the social issues of our day, with all

the frustration, resentment, anger and misunderstanding that can result, and at the same time to keep clear our vision of the Kingdom. A vision which sees people as important in themselves. Their value resting on their being human. That is their value in God's eyes, and that must be their value for us.

Like everyone else, we live out our beliefs. We can do no other. Only, the beliefs are not always what we say they are, or what we would like others to think they are. So we have to begin with ourselves, where we can exercise some direct influence! If the values we say we believe in do motivate our actions, we will pay attention to people and try to understand what they are attempting to communicate. I am not advocating that we postpone action until we consider that we are more worthy of working for the Kingdom. If we do that, we will wait for ever. It is just a reminder that paying lip service to Christian values does not make them the motive force of our activities. An early Christian writer said, '*No one will ever have fulfilled the will of God in his actions if this will he has not fulfilled in his heart*'.

Metropolitan Anthony wrote that discipleship begins with silence and listening that involves every fibre of our being, so that we perceive what is being offered to us. '*This requires*', he said, '*a moral, intellectual integrity, because very often we listen hoping that we shall hear what we wish to hear and ready at the very moment we do not hear the right words, to switch off our understanding or our attention in order not to hear; or else we switch on the sinister ability we have to misunderstand, to misinterpret, to understand in our way what is spoken in God's way*. — *But in order to hear we must be prepared to receive any word which will be spoken to us, and in order to understand we must be prepared to do whatever God commands*.'

That is the quality of discipleship to which we are called. God can speak to us even through Government statisticians! We need to be alert to what is happening to people in our society, and to perceive what God requires us to do. Toc H provides the means for our compassion and concern, through our understanding of friendship as a healing, supportive relationship, to flow out and embrace those desperate people in our midst. That is what '*the dominating claim of the spiritual factor*' really means.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In July
Nellie Poole (Springfields District)

In August
Ernest Dransfield (Kimberworth)
William C Humphries (Gloucester District)

In September
Miriam Dungay (Redcar (J) Grp)
William R A Lamb (Lymington)
F A 'Florrie' Moody (West Worthing)
W Leonard Spinks (Parkhurst)
L T 'Tommy' Stockbridge (Eastbourne)
F 'Kay' Turner (Trimley)

In October
Lavinia Carter (Richmond (Yorkshire))
Henrietta Hughes (Finchley & Whetstone)
Gwilym I Jones (Conway)
George F Mardon (Gillingham)
M Anne Price (Edgbaston)



'Reflection will show that responsibility is closely bound up with the idea of having a choice; between priorities; between possible courses or action. A man who has no choice cannot be expected to be or to feel responsible if he has no effective freedom to do or not to do something . . . And with the young . . Do we give them opportunities for helping us with our work so that they can decide for themselves that it is a good thing, because they have experienced it, not because we tell them that it is.'

It was this spirit which motivated his work for the Winants of which he was an enthusiastic supporter. He saw the impact which their work here made upon young Americans coming from a background in which personal involvement in voluntary work is seen quite differently. He was convinced that the Winant experience had a profound influence on many of them. He wrote, *'The conversion of some "Winants" to these more personal methods is a real and sometimes costly one seen in the light of their background. The human encounter, particularly in London's East End, makes such an impression as to alter the intended journey in life of a number of these young folk.'*

Everything Johnnie did was done with drive and enthusiasm, and although often disappointed by the response, he was never deterred. He was a man of great integrity who simply did the work he knew he had been called to do. He always remained true to the vision he had been given, and no man worked harder to make it come true. Many of us owe him much, and we are the poorer for his passing.

TG

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.
— Editor

Baron MacLeod of Fuinary sent us this personal tribute to Johnnie's earlier work:

I have known Johnnie for more than 30 years and was in touch with him only the other day.

In 1930 I had just gone to the ship building parish of Govan, Glasgow, with its 3,000 on the Communion Roll. One trouble was they were building no ships — it was the counterpart to our day: unemployment. But whereas a single unemployed man now gets over £30 a week, we then got ten shillings a week. I know about inflation; but it has hardly risen 60 times since the 'thirties! Literal starvation was then a commonplace. Having just come from a 'well to do' parish, the response of the unemployed amazed me. The first disciples of Jesus asked Him what they were to do. Jesus replied *'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked and release the people in bondage'*. That is precisely what they were doing in Govan. Young Johnnie, unemployed, came to me and offered to drive my car, for nothing, just to move with me round the starving.

We bought a derelict mill, eight miles out in the country; also a second class motorbus (for £60!). We got unemployed masons and carpenters to come and restore it for nothing. They brought their older sons out for weekends and summer holidays. We even built a swimming pool. And we fed them — for nothing. Johnnie became the chef — for nothing.

In summer I took our 'curates' to Iona for a holiday. *'Why not'* said one of them, *'restore Iona Abbey like the mill?'* (loud laughter from us). But not from Johnnie. *'Why not'*, he said. *'They would do it — for nothing, and you could get divinity students in summer, to come and work as labourers'*. We stopped laughing. That is how Iona Abbey was restored, where, last summer, 1,650 men and women came for at least a week each, to confer about The Church's contribution to peace (unilateralism); and about unemployment. Additionally, 1,000 senior youth came to one youth camp. Thus Johnnie became the first lay brother. He really started the Iona Community, by his quiet loyalty, his unerring humour, and his unassuming grasp of what discipleship means.

'Today, he is with God, in paradise.'

GM

We give thanks for their lives

For your diary

Peace and Reconciliation
in industry and in the neighbourhood

A discussion weekend at

ALISON HOUSE

on 18-20 February 1983

Speakers:

Revd Mostyn Davies,
Industrial Chaplain, Peterborough

Christopher Vincenzi
Bradford Community Relations
Council

Chairman:

Ralph Bristow, Director, Ferry
Pickering Group PLC, Nottingham.

The causes of conflict in industry and in the local community are not always as simple as they appear. If we are to replace confrontation with co-operation we need a better understanding of how the stresses originate. They may be as much structural as personal.

During this weekend we shall explore some of the issues, and perhaps see what changes are necessary in personal attitudes or in organisation.

The weekend will be led by a first class team. Our speakers have experience in industrial and community relations, and our chairman is himself engaged in industry and is active in voluntary work.

All applications, please, to: Alan Robson, Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RH.

This Toc H sponsored walk from Kirkham to Preston, started out from a pub. The walkers, in fancy dress, collected £16 on the route - from more pubs! We don't know how long it took them to complete the walk - or whether they all made it - but the money (pardon the expression) is still rolling in!

Open Forum

The Marks

We are extremely sorry to hear that Mark 4 is to be closed and we find it very difficult to accept the reasons put forward.

Some Marks have not been paying their way but this is not true of Mark 4 which has been efficiently run by Mr and Mrs G Rutter and a succession of good Wardens.

After a long and successful association with Mark 4, both directly and through the Church of St John Chrysostom, we cannot understand your motive for the closure except as in the way of so many organisations today sheer greed prompts the actions.

Our family has made very close and warm friendships with the marksmen over a 30 year period and many of them still keep in touch from many countries throughout the world. For instance, one marksman is a lecturer in an Indian University, another is finding water wells in the Far East, one has a gentleman's outfitting shop in Holland and recently brought his family to Manchester to see Mark 4 after 20 years' absence: we can quote many more.

Setti is a present day example of a typical marksman and is an architect. Our son-in-law lived at Mark 4 for seven years before he got married and is now a Chartered Engineer.

It makes one wonder if you really do know or are even aware of what has been going on at Manchester for many, many years and many old people are really shocked because the Mark and the Central Branch have been very much aware of the older people in this parish. There has also existed a very close contact with the Church and

congregation, as well as a kind of brotherhood which is hard to define...

It would have been preferable to establish Toc H within the area before the closure of the Mark because the way you are going Toc H will finish and fade away.

If by any chance the Mark is to be sold and there is any talk of demolition of the present building we can assure you that this will be fought to the bitter end through the Local Civic Society and Victoria Park Association.

Harry and Bessie Ford
Manchester

Note: It is difficult without a detailed analysis of accounts over several years to say how far any Mark has been 'paying its way'. Certainly, Mark 4 has had huge maintenance and repair costs in recent years which have been a heavy drain on central funds. But, as has repeatedly been stated, finance is not the only or even the primary reason for the closing of Marks.

2. At its September meeting, the CEC again considered the case put forward by Manchester for retaining Mark 4. The Executive confirmed its earlier decision that this Mark will be closed finally not later than 31 July 1983.

Editor

Peace and Disarmament

I was interested to read Len Prentis' comments (October) about 'Personal View' in the July issue of *Point Three*. The position of Russia usually arises when this subject is discussed but let us not imagine that the West is waiting with open arms to co-operate.

During the UN Second Special Session on Disarmament, despite pressure



Photo: Lancashire Evening Post

Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

from many member states who held that the nuclear armaments of the USA and the USSR were substantially in balance, the USA would not agree either to 'freeze' their nuclear arms or to join with Russia and agree to follow China in an undertaking not to be the first to use the nuclear 'deterrent'.

I would not agree that armaments are a cause of war: on the contrary one might claim that possession of nuclear arms by both the USA and Russia has prevented war for the past 40 years or so — militarists still think in terms of the balance of power! Wars are caused not by armaments but by greed of ambitious men, the desire for raw materials, access to markets, wealth, and power. These are the real causes of war whether conducted with nuclear armaments, cannons, rifles, catapulted or hand thrown stones, swords, spears, arrows or pointed sticks.

Certainly we must rid ourselves of these horrific 20th century impediments, but before 'they', we, anyone will relinquish their 'protection' they need to feel secure; hence the need for an effective UNO supernational police force. Once we're over that one the possibility of reducing national armaments will be apparent to all and the wealth which will be released will be more than sufficient to remove the real causes of war. Even detente between the USA and the USSR will be a possibility, though ideological differences do present special problems.

Whatever justification Russia may claim for attacking Afghanistan, the proposed Tribunal would/could have adjudicated on the issue, called upon both countries to withdraw their troops behind their 'cordon sanitaire' boundaries and the intervening area would have been

occupied by the International Police Force.

It is hard to imagine America feeling 'nervous' about Cuba, but in the event of possible attack suitable defences would no doubt be mounted, the matter would be referred to the Tribunal of Equity and the IPF Navy would 'trail its cloak' in the area, as it would have done between the Falklands and Argentina had it been in existence.

At the recent UN SSSD it was stated that Russia had been prepared to accept inspection on the lines of the Salt I and II talks. It was the US which declined to accept inspection.

Unemployment is indeed a matter not unconnected with war and peace — I seem to remember that it was three million unemployed that brought Hitler to power! As I see it, many of us have been having it too good for too long. Ever increasing demands for more pay, restrictive practices and strikes by certain sections of the community raise the cost of living for everyone, increase the cost of products in the home market and price us out of business in the export market — thereby adding to the number of unemployed and the destruction of our economy: during the past ten years firms in the UK have been going bankrupt or closing down at the rate of nearly 15,000 a year.

Consider the effect of a 10% reduction in pay to all those who have received increases in excess of this amount during the past three years and those in receipt of above average wages. Most of the reduction would be covered by savings in income tax, reduced costs of production would make businesses more competitive in the export market, increased demand would result in

additional staff being engaged, more people would be earning wages and paying income tax and NHI contributions, unemployment and social service benefits would be reduced and everyone would benefit from the reduced price of goods in the shops. Within a year inflation could well be contained and soon reversed. If this approach were accompanied by a planned reduction in interest rates (such as we are now experiencing), employers and entrepreneurs would be encouraged to risk their capital and a general improvement in trade would emerge. Alas, I fear it would take a war to bring this about! Once the country was on an even keel, earnings and increases should depend on the Gross National Product not inflation.

To Fred Bailey (October 'Open Forum') I would say that the IPF would not be involved in Chile, except possibly for the TE to warn off the USA, as this is/was an internal matter.

Cecil A E Baylis
Cheltenham

Toc H Projects — Before and After

I was introduced to Toc H by a friend four years ago — back in my first days at college. I am slowly finding out why God has prompted and nudged me to work for Him in this way.

I first got a real taste for projects last year, when I worked for a week in a Sue Ryder home, learning how good amateurs can be at making concrete paths. We also had a good bit of contact with the residents at the home. I allowed myself to be thrown in at the deep end last year too, when I accepted the chance to be a volunteer on a German playscheme . . . I had the time of my life

Notes from Wendover by David Owen

As an accountant, naturally the first thing I looked at on joining Toc H was the accounts. I was very worried to see 'losses' of £1½ million each of the last two years (ie the amount by which expenditure exceeded income). Few businesses could survive this rate of loss for very long and as you will know this year's Central Council very properly is giving earnest attention to this matter.

But there is a way that Members and Builders could help immediately and without any effort or sacrifice at all. If you are a taxpayer (and who isn't!) and at present give Toc H, say, £5 a year, we can arrange with the Inspector of Taxes to give Toc H a tax refund of £2.10 in

respect of your contribution. If you give £10 per year we can get a tax refund of £4.20. On a £20 per year contribution from you we can get a refund of £8.40, and so on . . . with no effort on your part, and at no extra cost to you. All you have to do is to sign a form which you can get from us at Toc H, Wendover. We are already raising £9,000 per annum in this way and I believe we could double this figure if more Members and Builders joined in.

The other point concerns Branch Treasurers. If you keep Toc H funds in a Building Society Account, we can obtain a refund of the tax deducted in arriving at the interest credited to your

account. This is a very valuable concession given by the Government and all Treasurers should make sure they don't miss out on this one. Please write to me for details.

Note: The introduction of the computer has involved us in a re-arrangement of responsibilities here at Wendover. David has been appointed to the post of HQ Administrator. He is responsible for the internal running of HQ (including the receipt and dispatch of mail), for all membership records and he has a particular concern with finance.

— Editor

Open Forum continued

learning about children and something of what makes them tick — but not what makes them stop! I also began to experience some of the valuable team spirit engendered between volunteers.

So, to this year — and I couldn't resist applying for a Toc H project. I decided one week wasn't enough, so I did two — again completely different experiences. The first was a week with ten other volunteers working in a School for the Blind at Leatherhead. We spent a very active week doing the sights around London, including Kew Gardens and Hampton Court (ever done the maze in ten minutes? We did!) Not to mention sampling the briny at Littlehampton. Here again I was pleased to see that after a week we began to 'gel' as a group of volunteers, and we made some good friends of the residents at the school, as well as learning something of how blind people adapt themselves to life. I have recently returned from Hengrave Hall where 32 able bodied and disabled people took a holiday together.

Although all these projects have been vastly differing experiences, they have all produced the same feelings before and after. Before I go, my mind buzzes with thoughts like 'Will I get on with the other volunteers?' 'Will I manage the work?' 'Will I enjoy the work?' 'Will I be able to share God with somebody?' When the project is over and the big hankies have been wrung out and put away, I've always been able to answer 'yes' to all those questions. During each project, whether it's a weekend, or three weeks, I've really been built up and strengthened by the amount of caring and friendship that's shown by everyone involved, as we work and relax together. I do hope others find the same qualities.

So — I feel that God has most definitely called me to this work. He has answered my prayers by giving me the chance to share my faith with at least one person on each of those projects. He has also helped me to accept the good qualities of all the volunteers and those with whom we work, whether they know God or not.

I pray now that God will show me how he wants me to continue my involvement in my local area and in projects further afield.

Sue Wright
Lincoln

50 Years Ago

I read with interest the article '50 Years Ago' in the August edition of *Point Three*.

In 1932 I was stationed in Tientsin, North China, when the Revd F E ('Bobs') Ford and Henry Chappell broke their journey to Australia to pay the troops a visit and give a talk to my Regiment, The Queen's Royal Regiment, and to some business personnel.

Soon after their visit a move was made to start a Toc H Group in Tientsin, which met in the Sailors and Soldiers Home and I understand it became a Branch until the Second World War. I left China in 1934 for Quetta, India and joined the Quetta Branch.

How true those words written by Hugh Walpole are — *'The one force as I see it that brings men together is because men are brothers, naturally belong to each other and were made by God to serve one another'*.

Jim Eaton
Taunton

Early Blood Donors

October's *Point Three* includes another letter about early blood donors and this tempts me to pen a few lines.

It was in Cambridge that I was first invited to give blood by a Toc H member. We used to go to Addenbrooke's Hospital at any time of the day or night for direct transfusion to the patients. This seemed to me so very worthwhile and it was as a direct result of this that I joined the Movement. Of course, this meant a time of study and a probation period before I was 'let in'. Since then what a difference Toc H has meant to my life and I thank God for it.

Frank Dupont
Havant, Hants

To the earlier Open Forum letters my records can add something.

I became a donor on 19 August 1930 following the visit of Mr P L Oliver of the Red Cross Transfusion Service to Edmonton Branch of Toc H. My list shows 26 donations ranging from 300 to 900 cc each, up to 12 July 1939, followed by Army Service from September to October 1945.

I recall several direct person to person transfusions in the early days. The most memorable was at a maternity hospital, where the patient was very emotional, and only the surgeon could calm her to enable the transfusion to proceed. The report states 'She was much improved immediately, and for two or three days, but developed mania, and had to be removed to another hospital'. In answering enquiries about this

transfusion you will appreciate a good deal of banter followed!

After the war I served the National Blood Service to May 1952 followed by donations in New Zealand and Denmark, from which I trust no effects were ever so drastic as the detailed episode above!

W E Bruton
Newbury

Pass The Salt

I am surprised that there has been no response so far to Huw Gibbs' provocative article which appeared in the August issue. Can it be that his comments are so near the truth that no one rises up to defend themselves?

Knowing Huw, I was at first disposed to dismiss many of his comments as the mirror of his own failings but on reading his short letter in your last issue I realised how much Toc H has meant to him and how he cares for its survival. There is no doubt that the 'age syndrome' stalks many of our Branches and some members seem to use this as an excuse for doing nothing and watching the world pass them by. Life does not cease to exist at 60: if it did, I wonder what this nation would have done without Sir Winston Churchill in 1940?

Not only do we need to 'pass the salt' we need some 'pepper on tails' to rekindle the fire and spirit of the early days of our Movement.

John Morgan
Ruislip

Michaelmas

Are other 'old members of The Women's Section disappointed at the present observance of Michaelmas in Toc H? It was never primarily a day for a church service, but one on which each member undertook to pray for the Movement in one geographical area for 15 minutes at some time during the day.

This was a long time for some of us to concentrate on one subject, and a good discipline for us. We 'oldies' at Wolverhampton regret that the custom is not being maintained.

Marion L Paley
Wolverhampton

Note: Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some letters to the next issue.

— Editor



Newsome Toc H's annual outing for 60 disabled people was a mystery tour; afterwards they joined a further 30 disabled people for tea and concert.



Ida Powis, aged 83, has just joined Bitterne (Southampton) Branch, who tell us she is a 'lively lady, with a terrific sense of fun'. Is she the oldest new member?



Three founder members of Llandrindod Wells cut the cake at the Branch's 50th birthday celebrations. The mayor wasn't there as a guest - he's also an active member!



A cheerful group at the North Wales and North West Regional Festival at Kendal. Recognise any of the faces? (There's one current and one ex-staff member among them.)



About 50 housebound elderly people recently had an entertaining (and refreshing) afternoon when they enjoyed community singing, followed by tea. Hosts were Twydall Joint Branch.



Obviously an interesting story, judging by the expression of the mayor and mayoress, visiting the 31st Louth Toc H flower and produce show, which raised about £100.

a message from **'GEORGE THE STAMP'**

Our new Stamp Appeal organiser, George Dixon, wishes to clear up any misunderstandings about his identity. He used to meet the late George Dixon (Toc H Registrar) at National Festivals and they would have a good laugh together about having been thought to be in two places at once. George the Stamp's Toc H record is Hanover and Nienburg Toc H circles 1945, Peterborough, Edinburgh and Stockbridge Branches and, since 1950, Westwood Branch, Peterborough, together with spells on Central Council and the former East Midlands Area committee. **George writes:**

'Firstly, a warm thank you to those of you who put aside used postage stamps and by devious means get them to Westwood Branch and myself at Peterborough. I was glad to be able to fulfil a pledge I made to Charles Wake's widow that, when I retired, I would do what I could to follow in his steps. In the interim, Denis Walker of Wakefield was able to keep things going.'

'Although space no longer permits acknowledgement lists to be printed, I would like to thank the following who have helped my Branch to start in the "Stamps for Charity" business. *Headquarters staff (for not throwing anything away); Edith Cartmill, Douglas, IOM (aged 80 this August); Alex MacDonald, Labrador, Queensland (85 this June - he's been sending stamps for over 20 years); Nancy Kellicoat, Unley Branch, South Australia and George Comino, Queensland; Mrs Lederer, Long Island, NY; Harpenden Branch, Kendal Joint Branch, Rawmarsh Branch; Peterborough & Stamford District members; R Batty, Doncaster; C Ornerod, Leeds; A R Davis, Wednesfield; Anon via South West Region.*

'Basically all stamps are acceptable, from abandoned collections to stamps off letters and parcels. Stamps should be left on one thickness of paper, with about $\frac{1}{4}$ " of paper around. Not much more or buyers don't want to know; not much less or the stamps get damaged.'

'How do we convert into cash? After shopping around for buyers, I decided to help Toc H by helping the 'Save the Children' Fund Philatelic Section who have a shop in North London. After accumulating sufficient stamps of the better items, I weigh them up and put in window bags of between $\frac{1}{4}$ lb and 3lbs, and take a large suitcaseful to London (sharing the fare as far as possible). I hand this over, with an invoice priced at latest buying prices, to the jolly naval captain at the shop, who has lost both his legs. He knew of Tubby and is glad to help Toc H. The first time I called, someone else came into the shop and made a noise sitting down at a side table. The noise was the captain's artificial legs being kicked out of the way to make room!'

'In addition, better material sorted out or being sent in (collections, first day covers, better quality stamps which I have soaked off their paper) are disposed of by best means . . . this could be as an auction lot, mounting them up on priced sheets and circulating them in Stamp Club Exchange Packets, or selling them to collectors who may specialise in something that's been spotted . . . and will pay accordingly.'

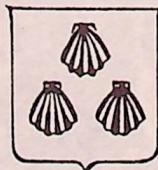
'So nothing is too common . . . and more especially, nothing is too good. Thank you in anticipation of more to come.'

If you can't get stamps in by other means, please post to George Dixon, 8 Priory Road, Peterborough PE3 6EB.)

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

Weymouth, bed, breakfast, evening meal from £48 week. Weekend breaks from £14.50. Bar, free parking. Also inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £80 week. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken.

Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only.

Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Ballestraat 1,

Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50

3398 31/32.

Holiday Letting - Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight, two miles from Yarmouth Ferry Harbour. Fully furnished bungalow on cliff top with panoramic view of the Solent. Available from Easter 1983. Accommodation for four persons. £60-£126 according to season. Desmond Bonner, 6 West Street, Steeple Claydon, Buckingham. (Tel: 029 673 565)

Claclton - 6 berth Caravan, fully equipped, excellent site facilities include, pool, shops, childrens playground and social centre. April/May/June - £45 pw, July - £50 pw, August - £60, September - £45 pw. Full details from Mrs M Burgess, 6 Upper Park Road, Clacton-on-Sea. Tel: 0255 429428. SAE please.

NORTHERN LIGHT The magazine of Toc H North Eastern Region issued quarterly. Annual subscription £1. Orders to G T Asquith, 28 Hull Road, Howden, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 7AH.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Christian Singles. Social Events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, Holidays, weekend houseparties: Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept/B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.